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Richelieu; the fifth, of the reign of Louis XIV.; and the last, of the eighteenth century. We shall look eagerly for those coming volumes, and shall expect to find them worthy of the author's genius, learning, and industry, and a valuable contribution to the literature of our country.

Mr. Godwin writes generally in a very pleasant and sprightly, though occasionally too ambitious style, and shows an excellent mastery of the English tongue, which he uses commonly with great propriety and effect. Yet he is guilty sometimes of what seems to us an unpardonable affectation, or something worse, in his introduction of strange words. We can bear, though we are not pleased, to meet our old familiar Odin under the disguise of Odhinn; and though we are aware what work Gregory of Tours and others make of Frankish proper names, we hardly like to meet him whom we have so long known as Clovis, transformed into Chlodowig, and Lothaire changed into Lutherr. But worse than this, why will not "eager," or "covetous," answer Mr. Godwin's needs as well as *avid*, which stares us in the face on the very first page. He seems to delight in *consternated*, where "frightened" would be strong enough. *Ascribed to the glebe*, whatever may be thought of it as a rendering of *ascripti glebæ*, is certainly not English; and when he says *atoned with his hide*, few would at once think of a forfeiture of landed property. We doubt the fitness of *equal lances* as a translation of the *æqua lance* of St. Gregory, when plainly the notion is simply of a pair of scales. When he says, "The Roman *rhetors coruscated* with congratulatory metaphors," he has surely forgotten the law of simplicity. There are other like cases. They are only blemishes, yet very disagreeable ones, in a work generally marked by good taste, and which has so much real excellence and merit.

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15. — *Wissenschaftliche Grammatik der Englischen Sprache* von EDUARD FIEDLER, Weiland Oberlehrer am Gymnasium zu Zerbst, und DR. CARL SACHS, Oberlehrer am Gymnasium zu Brandenburg a. H. Leipzig: Wilhelm Violet. 1861. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. xix., 314, 412.

A WORK of true German scholarship is the new English Grammar by Edward Fiedler and Carl Sachs. It must be allowed, setting all national pride aside, that little enough has been done to throw light upon the historical development of the English language, and now we find German scholars leading the way. Appreciating at their just value the works of Latham and others, it must still be admitted that our language possesses nothing which for research and comprehensiveness can compare with the labors of the brothers Grimm in Germany, and their numerous successors.

The *Wissenschaftliche Grammatik* of Fiedler and Sachs is a study upon that portion of the Indo-Germanic tongues more particularly connected with English etymology. The latest labors of Sanscrit scholars have been freely used, and the work is enriched with the newest results of researches in the domain of the Celtic branches, as well as of those in the Gothic and Saxon. Still that clear and simple exposition of facts, which is the first virtue of French and English philological productions, will be sought in vain in the learned volume now under consideration. One will often be reminded of the words of Madame de Staël, when perusing some of those laborious expositions, — they apply perhaps as well to German philologers as to German playwrights, — *Les Allemands ne savent jamais finir*.

The present work, divided as it is with scientific precision and overloaded with citations, is calculated only for professed scholars. There is not a single page that would bear consecutive reading. One section is developed with particular fulness. It is that concerning the relative Romanic and Germanic elements in the English tongue. The second volume is devoted exclusively to the syntax and prosody of the language. The truly "Scientific Grammar," presenting the results of the labors of its authors in the driest possible form, is well adapted for reference. It commends itself to the scholar by the genuineness of research, and the perfectly incredible amount of learning displayed on every page.

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16. — *The Washingtons. A Tale of a Country Parish in the 17th Century. Based on Authentic Documents.* By JOHN NASSAU SIMPKINSON, Rector of Brington, Northants. London: Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. 1860. 16mo. pp. 326, lxxxix.

IN Brington church may be still read the epitaph of Lawrence Washington, the father of John, the first member of the family who emigrated to America, and whose grandson or great-grandson was the father of George Washington. The parish record of Brington and the church-walls reveal other names of the same family, as also memorials of the noble Spencer family, connected by marriage and close intimacy with the Washingtons; and the entire neighborhood retains numerous traditions concerning both these households, — the one illustrious in its ancestry, the other predestined to a higher and more cosmopolitan fame in its posterity. It was not unnatural that Mr. Simpkinson should have traced out and set in order such vestiges as were within his reach of a name identified with heroism and liberty all the world over, and no man can have greater adaptation or facilities for such a task than